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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau

FROM:	EXTENSION	NO.
Chief, Operations Group	3-5991	DATE November 1988

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. C/MOD				
2.				
3. C/ESG				
4.				
5. C/FED				
6.				
7. C/ADD				
8.				
9. C/HED				
10.				
11. C/Computer Operations				
12.				
13.				
14. FED Secretary				
15.				

FORM 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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FBIS-6053-88
2 December 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- November 1988

I. GENERAL

Congressional allocation of funds for site acquisition for new mission facilities in both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem put site selection on a very fast track. The decision on which facility will be the chancery and which the consulate awaits the new administration, but in the meantime the target date for the selection of sites has been moved up to 8 December. Site selection team members visited the bureau late in the month to discuss FBIS' needs and to tour the current facility. The Foreign Buildings Office at the State Department has assured mission-resident agencies that their needs will be carefully considered. Telephone coordination with headquarters led to the scheduling of a visit by the regional engineer and Nicosia Bureau's cruising monitor for an early December reception survey of the three most likely sites.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

The bureau stayed open overnight 1-2 November to cover the returns from the Israeli election. A long series of FYI's detailed the surprising gains by the religious parties, which have been interpreted as illustrating the country's political swing to the right. Election coverage did not end, however, with the final tally of votes, as the negotiations among the parties over forming a government continued through November, generating a good deal of copy, most of which was superseded by events the day, or even a few hours, after it was filed. This cycle is very unpredictable; an agreement could be reached at any time, or it may take weeks.

B. Communications

Following serious communications difficulties in October and the first three weeks of November, Tel Aviv's primary circuit problems have apparently been rectified. There has been no major outage since the 19th.

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C. Technical

The installation of a 3.1 meter TVRO satellite dish on the roof of the Migdalor Building was completed for the bureau by a local contractor on the 25th. Once the cruising work is complete and monitoring equipment is received from headquarters, Turkish television will be added to Tel Aviv's regular coverage.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. A 4.5 percent COLA for FBN's was implemented in November retroactive to 1 October.

2. Associate Editor [redacted] converted to parttime, reducing her workdays per pay period from ten to eight. STAT

3. [redacted] a new Hebrew monitor, began work at the bureau on the 2d. STAT

4. Editor [redacted] was away from the bureau 9-30 November while on R & R leave in the States. STAT

IV. VISITS

A. Regional Engineer [redacted] visited from 28 November to 1 December for consultations with Bureau Engineer [redacted] STAT STAT

B. Nicosia Communications Operator [redacted] TDY has been extended to 27 December, by which time the bureau hopes to have two new communications operators on board and at least partially trained. STAT

[redacted] STAT

Chief, Tel Aviv Bureau

cc: JN, NC

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